



# Department of Justice

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**DALLAS MAN FOUND GUILTY OF CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD  
FRUIT OF THE LOOM**

***-\$240,000 Fraud***

BOWLING GREEN, KY - Kenneth Scott Harris, age 45, of Euless, Texas was found guilty by a federal jury on September 5, 2007, in United States District Court, Bowling Green, Kentucky, of conspiracy to commit mail fraud, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today. The jury returned its verdict following a 7-day trial before Thomas B. Russell, Judge, United States District Court. After approximately 7 hours of deliberation, the jury found Harris guilty of conspiring with Kalen Watkins, a Fruit of the Loom executive, and two outside contractors, Ronald Pollock and Tyrone Tackett, to defraud FOL.

Harris is currently an executive with the federal Environmental Protection Agency in Dallas, Texas. In 1998, Harris lived in Bowling Green and started Risk Management Group (RMG), an environmental consulting company, at the request of Kalen Watkins, who was then Fruit of the Loom's (FOL) Environmental Director. Watkins promised Harris FOL business if Harris made Watkins a silent partner in RMG. Harris was awarded contracts to provide environmental services to FOL, and knowingly inflated the invoices he submitted to FOL for services provided. Watkins also knew those invoices were inflated, but approved them for payment. In 1999 alone, Harris received approximately \$1 million from FOL.

Harris laundered the illegal profits from the inflated invoices by writing checks made payable to businesses owned by Ronald Pollock and Tyrone Tackett. Pollock and Tackett, who had both previously pled guilty to participating in the conspiracy, testified that they did little or no work in return for the approximately \$240,000 in checks they received from RMG. Pollock and Tackett also testified that they cashed the checks, kept a small portion of the proceeds, and returned the remainder to Harris and Watkins. Harris' bank records reflected significant cash deposits in the days immediately following the deposits of the checks by Pollock and Tackett. Harris subsequently claimed the payments as expenses on RMG's 1999 tax returns, giving the appearance that RMG had lost money in 1999. Harris also paid additional kickbacks to Watkins in cash and through \$48,000 in cashier's checks written by Harris' wife, Deborah Harris, and made payable to Watkins' wife, Lori Watkins. Kalen Watkins had previously pled guilty to the conspiracy, but testified at trial that Harris was not involved.

The maximum potential penalties are 5 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 3 years.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Weiser and Jim Lesousky, and it was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Harris is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Thomas B. Russell on December 4, 2007, at 12:00 p.m., in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

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